

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /059 W  
-----019595 220248Z /75

R 211550Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7531  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12184

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG  
SUBJ: PRIVATE GOE REACTION TO BEGIN VISIT

1. FIRST PRIVATE COMMENTS OF GOE OFFICIAL TO CONCLUSION OF  
BEGIN VISIT CAME FROM PERMANENT GOE REP TO ARAB LEAGUE (AND  
FORMER PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN) AMB. TAHSIN BASHIR IN MEETING  
WITH ASSIT. SEC. MAYNES AND POL COUNS JULY 21. BASHIR SAID HE  
HAD BEEN BOMBARDED DURING NIGHT WITH TELEPHONE CALLS FROM  
U.S. MEDIA REPS IN NEW YORK ON BEGIN VISIT, BUT HAD  
REFUSED COMMENT PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER.  
HE SAID THERE IS NOT YET ANY OFFICIAL GOE STATEMENT ON  
VISIT.

2. PRIVATELY, BASHIR SAW "NOTHING NEW" IN BEGIN'S PROPOSALS.  
HE CONVINCED MORE THAN EVER THAT SOME FORM OF "FORCEFUL  
IMPOSITION" BY U.S. WILL BE REQUIRED TO REACH SETTLEMENT.  
FOR EXAMPLE, EGYPT COULD NOT VOLUNTARILY CEDE RIGHT OF  
SOVEREIGNTY BY ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL  
AS PART OF SETTLEMENT. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT EGYPT FREE TO  
BREAK OR RESUME RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES BUT NOT  
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FREE TO DO SO WITH ISRAEL. KEY PROBLEM NOW WAS HOW TO MAKE  
ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS MORE PALATABLE.  
SINCE 1973, SADAT HAS TAKEN LEAD  
OUT IN FRONT OF OTHER ARABS AND GRADUALLY BROUGHT OTHERS ALONG  
TO RECOGNIZE AND LIVE IN PEACE WITH ISRAEL. SADAT COULD  
CONTINUE TO DO SO , BUT ONLY IN MANNER AND FORM OF MOVING FOR-  
WARD IS DONE IN RIGHT WAY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF ISRAELIS ARE WILLING

TO ACCEPT RETURN OF SOME REFUGEES (FINANCED BY SAUDIS OR OTHERS), SUCH MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING PALESTINIANS, WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT MOVE TOWARD NORMAL RELATIONS. IN THIS EVENT, SADAT COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT RELATIONS.

3. IN RESONSE TO ISRAELI ARGUMENT THAT ARAB REGIMES SO UNSTABLE AND ARAB-ISRAELI HATRED SO EEP THAT NO AGREEMENT WOULD HOLD, BASHIR SAID, OF COURSE, THERE WAS UNSTABILITY AND UNCERTAINTY IN ARAB WORLD, BUT ALSO IN ISRAEL. WHO HAD EXPECTED BEGIN'S ELECTION? FURTHERMORE, THERE HAVE BEEN DRAMATIC CHANGES IN SITUATION. FOR FIRST TIME ARABS READY TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, PRESIDENT OF EGYPT PREPARED TO ACCEPT ISRAEL AS MIDDLE EASTERN STATE AND ONE MILLION ARABS NOW LIVING UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL.

4. ON ECONOMIC TIES, BASHIR SAID ONCE AGREEMENT SIGNED, PALESTINIANS ON WEST BANK WILL ALREADY BE IN FORM OF ECONOMIC UNION WITH ISAREL AND, SINCE IT INCONCEIVALBLE THAT ARABS WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST PALESTINIANS, IN EFFECT ISRAEL WILL AUTOMATICALLY HAVE DIRECT ECONOMIC LINKS WITH ARAB STATES.

5. RE EGYPTIAN STRATEGY IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BASHIR SAID IT IS DESIGNED TO ISOLATE ISRAEL AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT UNTIL ISRAEL PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. "ISRAEL CANNOT HAVE ITS CAKE AND EAT IT TOO". BASHIR MAINTAINED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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GOE HAD NOT BEEN EXTREME IN PURSUING THIS OBJECTIVE. HE SAID THAT GOE COULD HAVE GONE MUCH FURTHER, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CLAIMING ISRAELI VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS CARTER ADMINISTRATION. INSTEAD GOE STRATEGY IS TO MAKE U.S. ROLE EASIER.

6. COMMENT: BASHIR IS ONE OF MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE AND MODERATE SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS DEALING WITH ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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